

CANADA.

and insane agitation, which would not be carried on if the people only regarded their own welfare, or the interests of their families and posterity.

*Dr. Nelson*, while he desired an unanimous vote, wished also that it should be one which should correctly express the opinion of the majority of the House; and he would, therefore, not wish anything to go abroad which might seem unfavourable to the Executive or to the head of the Government. He would mention one other subject before he sat down. He had yesterday received a letter from the most influential man in the county he represented, offering to bring the strength of that county to Montreal, if the unfortunate troubles there rendered it necessary. His honorable friend the member for Vercheres had that day received a similar letter from the most influential man in that county. He contended that the whole of the rural population was well pleased with the ministry, and would sustain it. He condemned all ideas of annexation, and though he had lived in the United States, and entertained the very highest respect for the people there, he would consider it a great misfortune for Canada to join them.

*Mr. Cayley* remarked, that the day before ministers had told the House that they had taken proper precautions, and that peace would be preserved, but what had been done? Why last night the people heard 500 Canadians had been armed by the Government against their fellow citizens. Was that the way in which they proposed to keep the peace? Or was it not rather the way to excite the bitterest war of races? He feared that that was what the Administration intended; for, from the very beginning of the session to the present moment, every measure, every vote, had been calculated to force on such a calamity. He declared that the Administration had kept the Governor in ignorance of the true state of opinion in the country; they had, too, by writing letters to the Home Government, kept them in ignorance of what was going on, and had given out that the country was never more quiet or contented, when the country was in a state of profound agitation from one end to the other. And it was at this moment that the Government came forward to obtain a vote of confidence to bolster up their cause. The honorable member then read, with indignant comments, a letter signed "A Voltigeur," of which a translation from "La Minerve" had been published in the "Montreal Herald." The letter spoke of the people who had burned the Houses of Parliament as "a crowd of miscreants, belonging to a miserable faction, and a horde of scoundrels." It also called on all young Canadians to rally round the ministry, and "prove the implacable hatred they bore to those, whom to destroy, it is only required for us to will it," and "to assemble in companies of ten, and let the centurions report their lists to the Adjutant-General of Militia." It concluded with God save the Queen! Now who were these people—these armed special constables—called out to put down? Why, they were called out to put down a few boys, who had remained in the street after the men had gone home. But then having got the policemen, it was necessary that they should be protected, so the troops were called out to protect the policemen and their sabres. The country was not tranquil; it was in a state of civil war; the Governor-General had been insulted, and was a prisoner at Monklands, and either did not choose or did not dare to show himself in town. And how was all this brought about? It was brought about by the grossest neglect. When Ministers were told, subsequent to the assent of the Governor-General being given to the Bill, that violence was apprehended, why, he asked, were not proper precautions taken to control them? Because the same party which had carried that most obnoxious measure had shown in themselves the extremes of insolence and feebleness. Insults had been offered to every loyal man in the country, the whole city had been outraged and excited by the application of the most offensive term of "rebels" to them, and yet the men who were engaged in raising the tempest never thought for one moment of providing against its fury. He was wrong in saying that no thought had been taken, for the honourable Inspector-General had gone down to the police magistrate to obtain troops, but had found that some trouble and some time would be necessary, and had therefore refrained from his research. At any rate, ministers took no pains to stop the disorder; they left anything which might be done in that way to others, and no one knew where they were gone till after everything was over. Then it was discovered that they were in the Government House, and that they did not think themselves safe till they had obtained the protection of a guard of soldiers. He believed that precaution was altogether unnecessary, and that display of troops had done more than anything else to create disturbance, by collecting the crowds of boys who had lingered about the streets. That was not enough even to show their indiscretion; but they must proceed to arrest some parties who had been at the meeting on the night of the fire, and who had since been kept in prison apparently with very little reason. He would refuse, under circumstances like these, to be forced by the consideration of recent occurrences to pass any vote that implied confidence in the ministry.

*Mr. Gagy* said this motion was an attempt on the part of the ministry to get a certificate of character from the House; and, for his part, he would not give them his subscription. On the contrary, he would tell them to their faces that they had done those things which they ought not to have done, and left undone those things which they ought to have done. They had, he presumed, given that advice to the Governor-General which had made it imperative on him to resort to a trick and artifice, in assenting to the Bill, unworthy of him, and which would, indeed, have been unworthy of the lowest member of the community. In the event of any popular opposition having been expected, why was not the House informed of what was going to take place? Had the House been aware that his Excellency was coming down, it might have been possible for honourable members on his (Mr. Gagy's) side of the House to allay or control that strong sense of indignation felt by every individual of British origin in this community. Instead of that, the Governor-General was advised to exclude the possibility of that side of the House affording their support. That afternoon they